CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for generating a child timeline, comprising the steps of:

selecting a portion of an existing timeline;

generating the child timeline based on the portion of the existing timeline; and

dynamically-linking the child timeline to the existing timeline.

2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of adding to the child timeline at least one data item from the portion of the existing timeline.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the at least one data item is associated with a first location on the existing timeline and the first location is associated with a first time, the step of adding to the child timeline comprising the step of adding the at least one data item to a location on the child timeline corresponding to the first time.

4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the at least one data item is selected from the group consisting of a milestone data item and a time interval data item.

5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of displaying through a graphical user interface a interrelationship between the existing timeline and the child timeline in response to generating the child timeline.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein the interrelationship is displayed by placing an icon on the portion of existing timeline and by visually connecting the child timeline to the portion of existing timeline.

7.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of selecting the portion of the existing timeline comprises selecting the portion of the existing timeline in response to placing an icon onto the existing timeline.

8.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of generating a child timeline comprises establishing a timeline comprising a first end representing a time corresponding to a location on the portion of existing timeline and a second end corresponding to another location on the portion of existing timeline.

9.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of dynamically-linking the child timeline to the existing timeline comprises the steps of:

associating the child timeline with the portion of the existing timeline; and

modifying the child timeline in response to modifying the portion of the existing timeline, wherein the modification to the child timeline is the same as the modification to the portion of the existing timeline.

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10.   A computer-implemented method for modifying timeline information, wherein a first timeline is dynamically-linked to a second timeline such that the second timeline is associated with a portion of the first timeline, comprising the steps of:

modifying the first timeline;

determining if the modification affects the first timeline at the portion of the first timeline associated with second timeline; and

if the modification affects the first timeline at the portion of the first timeline associated with second timeline, then modifying the second timeline in the same way as the first timeline.

11.   The method of Claim 10 wherein the step of modifying the first timeline comprises adding a data item from a group comprising a milestone data item and a time interval data item.

12.   The method of Claim 10 wherein the step of modifying the first comprises changing a data item existing on the first timeline prior to the performance of the step of modifying the first timeline.

13.   A system for dynamically-linking a child timeline to an existing timeline comprising:

a drawing sheet module; and

a timeline module, logically coupled to the drawing sheet module, operable to select a portion of an existing timeline in response to an action, generate the child timeline based on the portion of the existing timeline, and dynamically-link the child timeline to the existing timeline.

14.   The system of Claim 13, wherein the timeline module is further operable to add to the child timeline at least one data item from the portion of the existing timeline.

15.   The system of Claim 13, wherein the timeline module is further operable to display through a graphical user interface the interrelationship between the existing timeline and the child timeline in response to generating the child timeline.

16.   The system of Claim 13, wherein the timeline module is further operable to modify a first timeline, wherein the first timeline is dynamically-linked to a second timeline such that the second timeline is associated with a portion of the first timeline, determine if the modification affects the first timeline at the portion of the first timeline associated with second timeline, and, if the modification affects the first timeline at the portion of the first timeline associated with second timeline, then modify the second timeline in the same way as the first timeline.

5   17.   A computer-readable storage device storing a set of computer-executable instructions implementing a method for a computer-implemented method for generating a child timeline, comprising the steps of:

selecting a portion of an existing timeline;

generating the child timeline based on the portion of the existing timeline,
10   wherein the child timeline comprises at least one data item from the portion of the existing timeline; and

dynamically-linking the child timeline to the existing timeline.

          18.   The storage device of Claim 17 further comprising the step of displaying
15   through a graphical user interface the interrelationship between the existing timeline and the child timeline in response to generating the child timeline.

          19.   The storage device of Claim 17 wherein the step of selecting the portion of the existing timeline comprises selecting the portion of the existing timeline in response
20   to placing an icon onto the existing timeline.

          20.   The storage device of Claim 17 wherein the step of generating a child timeline comprises establishing a timeline comprising a first end representing a time corresponding to a location on the portion of existing timeline and a second end
25   corresponding to another location on the portion of existing timeline.

          21.   The storage device of Claim 17 wherein the step of dynamically-linking the child timeline to the existing timeline comprises the steps of:

associating the child timeline with the portion of the existing timeline; and
30   modifying the child timeline in response to modifying the portion of the existing timeline, wherein the modification to the child timeline is the same as the modification to the portion of the existing timeline.

22. A computer-readable storage device storing a set of computer-executable instructions implementing a computer-implemented method for modifying timeline information, wherein the first timeline is dynamically-linked to a second timeline such that the second timeline is associated with a portion of the first timeline, comprising the steps of:

modifying the first timeline;

determining if the modification affects the first timeline at the portion of the first timeline associated with second timeline; and

if the modification affects the first timeline at the portion of the first timeline associated with second timeline, then modifying the second timeline in the same way as the first timeline.